The American University in Cairo

School of Global Affairs & Public Policy (GAPP)

MEROWE DAM IN NORTHERN SUDAN:
A CASE OF POPULATION DISPLACEMENT AND IMPOVERISHMENT

A Thesis Submitted to

The Center for Migration and Refugee Studies

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for

The degree of Master of Arts

by Iman Ahmed Ismail AHMED
MBBS, University of Khartoum, Sudan 1993
FMRS Graduate Diploma, American University in Cairo, Egypt 2002

Under the Supervision of Dr. Ahsan Ullah
May 2013
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has been approved by
Thesis Committee Chair _Dr. Ahsan Ullah__________________________
Affiliation _Associate Professor/ Assistant Director, CMRS______________

Thesis Committee Reader _Dr. Ibrahim Awad__________________________
Affiliation _CMRS Director__________________________________________

Thesis Committee Reader _Ms. Shaden Khallaf________________________
Affiliation _CMRS__________________________________________________

_________________________ ________________________________
Department Chair Date Dean Date
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I dedicate this work to the memory of my late parents who spared no effort to give me the highest standards of life and instilled in me the values of respect, dignity, ambition and collaboration that I continue to live by.

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I hope that my work will put the problem of Hamadab, Amri and Manasir people higher on the academic and policy agenda as they continue to voice their concerns about their losses and imbalanced compensation deal they had to face in the course of Merowe Dam project. Special thanks go to Mr. Ali Askouri who was very resourceful in pointing me out to information much needed for my project.

Finally, my warm thanks are due to my family, back in Canada and my friends in Cairo and around the world for their remarkable, unconditional love and support.
ABSTRACT

MEROWE DAM IN NORTHERN SUDAN: A CASE OF POPULATION
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by

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Under the Supervision of Dr. Ahsan Ullah

This thesis examines the relationship that exists between population displacement and impoverishment. The study falls in the domain of Development Induced Displacement and Resettlement (DIDR). It uses the example of Merowe Dam; a large scale, multi-purpose dam built at the Fourth Cataract of the River Nile in Northern Sudan. The Dam is located in an area inhabited by three tribal groups: Hamadab, Amri and Manasir. It has resulted in the displacement of over 50,000 individuals who now have to endure compounded social marginalization and long term economic impoverishment. Using two risks from the Impoverishment Risk and Reconstruction (IRR) model as benchmarks, the study proves how the Hamadab, Amri and Manasir were rendered homeless and landless in the course of the project. My analysis also proves that quality matters much when we speak about compensation schemes. The affected villagers were moved from rich, fertile land to desert land that was not suitable for farming and required excessive fertilization and farming efforts; with high financial cost and little benefit reaped. The quality of housing provided to the villagers under the compensation scheme by Government of Sudan is also criticized by the study as being crowded and unsanitary, compared to the resettlers’ earlier homes. The research also reveals how various groups such as single men and labor migrants working outside the project site were rendered vulnerable through exclusion from housing compensation. Finally, the study concludes that Hamadab, Amri and Manasir have endured marginalization and impoverishment as a result of their displacement to pave way to Merowe Dam project; and they will have to continue to deal with these problems for years to come.

In my discussion, I propose addressing the gaps in International Law to emphasize a ‘right to land’ and suggest a more proactive role for researchers in the field of Forced Migration in order to influence development policy and plans in a way that counteracts displacement and impoverishment from DIDR.

Search Terms: Development Induced Displacement, Merowe Dam, Manasir, Impoverishment.

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFESD</td>
<td>Arab Fund for Economical and Social Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECCHR</td>
<td>European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCR-Net</td>
<td>Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIDR</td>
<td>Development Induced Displacement and Resettlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIU</td>
<td>Dams Implementation Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPE</td>
<td>Harbin Power Engineering Company Ltd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR</td>
<td>International Convenant on Civil and Political Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>International Convenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDMC</td>
<td>Internal Displacement Monitoring Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDPs</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILC</td>
<td>International Land Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRR</td>
<td>Impoverishment Risks and Reconstruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KSA</td>
<td>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OMCT</td>
<td>World Organization Against Torture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POCs</td>
<td>Persons of Concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<td>SARS</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>WB</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
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